

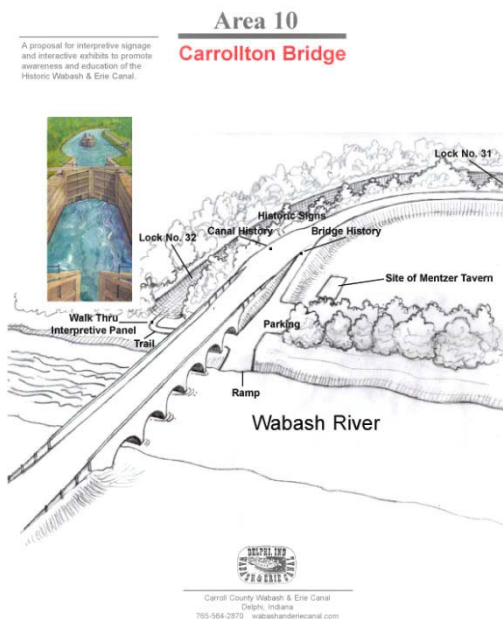
Carrollton Site Hosts Newest Wabash Access Opening June 15, 2008

by *Brian Stirm* and *Dan McCain*, Wabash & Erie Canal Association, Carroll County

The 3rd Annual Heritage Transportation Festival in Carroll County has chosen the new Carrollton Bridge for one of its venues in order to highlight our State River, the Wabash, and its role as the first “interstate” in Indiana. What better place and time to hold a ceremony christening the Wabash River Water Trail in Carroll County? A program of the Corridor Commission, the water trail will be officially launched at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 15th among other activities rededicating the bridge northeast of Delphi at the 19th century site of Carrollton.

The Delphi Mainstreet Association is the sponsor of the Festival along with the Wabash

& Erie Canal Association and the Delphi Municipal Airport. The two day Festival, June 14th & 15th 2008 highlights the Downtown area of Delphi (around the Courthouse Square) and The Wabash and Erie Canal Park on Saturday with fun activities (plus food & music) for all ages including rides in historic vehicles. Local businesses and vendors will display transportation related items too. On Sunday morning the activity moves to the Airport for a flyin-drivein breakfast, lots of fun flying activities, and Carroll Car Club auto show through the lunch hour. By mid afternoon festival action will move to Carrollton for the Bridge dedication, the Water Trail Grand Opening (canoes & kayaks welcome), and ceremonial recognition of land donations in and around the historic area to the W&E Canal Association. An antique auto hill climb up Carrollton hill may bring the bridge’s function full circle.



Gifts of land near the bridge, to be known as “Grantham’s Landing” on the east, including the canoe launch accepted into the Wabash River Water Trail, and “Mary K’s Overlook” on the west, will serve as interpretive sites pertaining to the Wabash & Erie Canal. The area is historically, as it was the only place on the canal where the main line crossed the Wabash River, and culturally significant as the canal era brought goods and people to mid-Indiana. The planned signage, made possible in part by a generous gift from the Canal Society of Indiana, will explain how horses pulled boats across to re-join the towpath on the other side of the river. Descriptions also will be posted about the Mentzer Tavern, a popular canal stop-over that once stood on land donated by the Grantham family, and canal Lock #32 on the Johnsen family’s donated land to the west of the bridge. Eventually a trail loop, a picnic area and parking will be available.